

1 MEETING MINUTES

2 Commission to Study School Funding (RSA 193-E:2-e)

3 Organizational Meeting

4 January 13, 2020 10am LOB 210-211

5 Members:

6 David Luneau - House (first named) Mel Myler - House (absent from this meeting)

7 Richard Ames - House Rick Ladd - House

8 Jay Kahn - Senate Jon Morgan - Senate

9 Iris Estabrook - Appt. by Senate President David Ryan - Appt. by Senate President

10 Corinne Cascadden - Appt. by Speaker Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu - Appt. by Speaker

11 John Beardmore - Appt. by Speaker William Ardinger - Appt. by Governor

12 Rep. Luneau called the meeting to order and welcomed the commission members and members of the  
13 public in attendance. The members introduced themselves.

14 Nominations and elect chair

15 Luneau called for nominations for chair. Sen. Kahn nominated Luneau, seconded by Rep. Ames. All in  
16 favor.

17 Remarks

18 Luneau thanked the members for their support and for their commitment to the work ahead. Luneau  
19 remarked that the commission will need to accelerate quickly in order to understand the problems at  
20 hand, develop solutions and issue a final report. Luneau talked about the need to engage people from  
21 across the state in this effort.

22 Rep. Ladd noted that we have some real issues, the most significant issue is disparities between schools.  
23 Chipping away at the old formula is not the way to go. We need to go back and redesign. Coming up  
24 with a new funding formula and system that is different from the current one that has not produced  
25 much help to the most needy schools.

26 Mr. Ardinger noted all the work that has been done since the two Supreme Court Claremont education  
27 decisions in the 1990s has not changed the disparities in the system. The commission needs a laser-like  
28 focus on how to direct state resources to the communities that suffer under the current system.

29 Rep. Heath said the focus needs to be on students as well.

1 Sen. Khan said there are a number of funding levels that need to be addressed and suggested  
2 recommending a number of models so people don't feel handcuffed on a single solution.

3 Review duties of the commission

4 The commission reviewed the duties in the statute.

5 Discussion of process framework, work path and timeline

6 Luneau discussed a process that begins with an understanding of the problem before moving on to  
7 solutions. The process would include public forums around the state to engage stakeholders – all  
8 Granite Staters.

9 Mr. Ardingler advised Luneau to engage a “chief of staff” and services to assist the commission. Luneau  
10 offered to bring a statement of work and proposal to the next meeting.

11 Mission Statement

12 Rep. Ladd suggested the statute is enough and not to let the commission get slowed down. Luneau  
13 agreed and said he may bring back a proposal.

14 Calendar

15 The members discussed availability, and interest in either 9am or 2pm start times on Mondays or  
16 Fridays. Members supported the idea to hold some commission meetings in other parts of the state.  
17 Luneau will work on a calendar.

18 Public Comment

19 Rep. Horn cautioned that the commission should not act in a partisan way.

20 Former Sen. Caroline McCarley, mayor Rochester, offered to assist the commission.

21 Next meeting January 27, 2020 in LOB 210-211 at 2pm

22

23 Documents:

24 Commission Established RSA 193-E:2-e

25 1984 Augenblick Report

26 Court decisions from Conval, Claremont 1 and Claremont 2

27 2008 Commission Report and Accountability Report

28 2018 Study Committee Report

1 2019 ECS National Comparison of School Funding

2 2019 NHDOE Adequate Education Aid

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4 Respectfully submitted,

5 David Luneau